

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP01/00404

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl<sup>7</sup> C22C 38/04, 38/46, C21D 8/02, 9/46

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl<sup>7</sup> C22C 38/00-38/60, C21D 8/00-8/04, 9/46

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1926-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2001  
 Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2001 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2001

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	JP, 6-271935, A (Nippon Steel Corporation), 27 September, 1994 (27.09.94), Claim 1; Par. Nos. 0006, 0011 (Family: none)	3-6
Y	JP, 10-152757, A (Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.), 09 June, 1998 (09.06.98), Par. Nos. 0017 to 0019 (Family: none)	3-6
E,X	JP, 2000-328172, A (Sumitomo Metal Industries, Ltd.), 28 November, 2000 (28.11.00), example 1 (Family: none)	3-5
A	JP, 52-47512, A (NKK Corporation), 15 April, 1977 (15.04.77) (Family: none)	1-6

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:  
 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not  
 considered to be of particular relevance  
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 date  
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 priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to  
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 "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be  
 considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive  
 step when the document is taken alone  
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 considered to involve an inventive step when the document is  
 combined with one or more other such documents, such  
 combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art  
 "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search  
 17 April, 2001 (17.04.01)

Date of mailing of the international search report  
 24 April, 2001 (24.04.01)

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